What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula I:

$$R^2$$
 N
 N
 R^3

I

wherein R¹ is halo, nitro, amino, cyano, methyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, trifluoromethoxy, methylthio, methylsulfinyl, or methylsulfonyl;

 R^2 is lower alkyl having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms or $-CH_2-R^4$ wherein R^4 is cycloalkyl having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms; and

R³ is an unsubstituted or mono-substituted five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring connected by a ring carbon atom to the amine group shown, which five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring contains from 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from sulfur, oxygen or nitrogen, with one heteroatom being nitrogen which is adjacent to the connecting ring carbon atom; said mono-substituted heteroaromatic ring being mono-substituted at a position on a ring carbon atom other than adjacent to said connecting carbon atom with a substituent selected from the group consisting of methyl, trifluoromethyl, chloro, bromo, nitro, cyano,

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ \text{-(CH}_2)_\text{n}\text{-C-NHR}^5; \text{ and } \text{-(CH}_2)_\text{n}\text{-NHR}^5; \end{array}$$

wherein n is 0 or 1;

R⁵ is hydrogen or lower alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

- 2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R¹ is halo, nitro, methyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, methylthio, or methylsulfonyl.
- 3. The compound according to claim 2, wherein halo is fluoro, chloro or bromo.
 - 4. The compound according to claim 3, wherein halo is chloro.
- 5. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R² is lower alkyl having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms.
- 6. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is $-CH_2-R^4$ wherein R^4 is cycloalkyl having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms.
 - 7. The compound according to claim 6, wherein R⁴ is cyclobutyl.
- 8. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R³ is an unsubstituted or mono-substituted five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring which contains from 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from sulfur and nitrogen.
- 9. The compound according to claim 1, wherein said unsubstituted or monosubstituted five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring is thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl and pyrazolyl.
- 10. The compound according to claim 9, wherein said ring is pyridinyl or thiazolyl.

11. The compound according to claim 1, wherein said mono-substituted fiveor six-membered heteroaromatic ring is substituted with methyl, trifluoromethyl, chloro, bromo, or

$$\begin{matrix} \text{O} \\ & || \\ \text{-(CH}_2)_{\mathbf{n}}\text{-C-OR}^5. \end{matrix}$$

- 12. The compound according to claim 11, wherein R⁵ is lower alkyl having 1 or 2 carbon atoms.
- 13. The compound according to claim 9, wherein said mono-substituted heteroaromatic ring is substituted with methyl, trifluoromethyl, chloro, bromo, or

- 14. The compound according to claim 9, wherein said ring is unsubstituted.
- 15. The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

1-isopropyl-6-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

1-isopropyl-6-trifluoromethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

1-isopropyl-6-nitro-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

6-hydroxy-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

1-isopropyl-6-methoxy-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

1-isopropyl-6-methylsulfanyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;

1-isopropyl-6-methanesulfonyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide; 6-fluoro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide; 6-bromo-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide; and 6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide.

16. The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

6-chloro-1-ethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;
6-chloro-1-propyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;
1-butyl-6-chloro-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;
6-chloro-1-isobutyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;
6-chloro-1-pentyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide; and
6-chloro-1-(3-methyl-butyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide.

17. The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

6-chloro-1-cyclopropylmethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;
6-chloro-1-cyclobutylmethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide;
6-chloro-1-cyclopentylmethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide; and
6-chloro-1-cyclohexylmethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide.

- 18. The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:
 6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid [1,3,4]thiadiazol-2-ylamide; and
 6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid pyridin-2-ylamide.
- 19. The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

 6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid (5-methyl-thiazol-2-yl)-amide;

 6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid (4-methyl-thiazol-2-yl)-amide;

 6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid (5-chloro-thiazol-2-yl)-amide;

 6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid (5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-amide; and

 {2-[(6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carbonyl)-amino]-thiazol-4-yl}-acetic acid ethyl ester.
 - 20. The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

 6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid (5-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

 6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid (5-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-yl)-amide;

6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid (5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-amide; and 6-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid (5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-amide.